

Tiger Survivors Civilian Internee Prisoners

Civilian Internee Biographies

When the North Koreans suddenly attacked South Korea across the 38th Parallel on June 25, 1950, they quickly conquered all the major cities except Pusan and then rounded up everyone they considered to be an enemy or a potential enemy. Their list of enemies included all foreigners and all South Koreans who were known to be or suspected of being disloyal to Communism. They were engaging in what might now be called "ideological cleansing." The goal of the Communists was to insure "correct political thinking" (a term that Communists use as far back as July 1950.) The North Koreans swept through South Korea with a broad brush; their orders were uncomplicated and complete: If in doubt, arrest and/or shoot. In their zeal, they arrested foreign citizens of fourteen nationalities whose missions in South Korea included British and French diplomats, Catholic and Protestant missionaries, anti-Communist White Russians, and several business people. The age of those to be arrested was no barrier-eighty-one years to six months, the latter being a member of a Tatar family

AMERICAN

AUSTRALIAN

AUSTRIAN

BELGIAN

BRITISH

FRENCH

GERMAN

GREEK

IRISH

JAPANESE

RUSSIAN

POLISH/KOREAN

SOUTH
KOREAN

SWISS

TATAR

AMERICAN



BOOTH, FATHER WILLIAM

Native of Brooklyn, New York, he was a secretary to Bishop Patrick Byrne and a Catholic missionary of the Maryknoll Order. He almost died in captivity due to a huge carbuncle on his back. The North Korean doctors, who had very little medical training, came by his hut every day and wanted to operate, but Dr. Kisch persuaded them not to do so. Father Booth survived the imprisonment but has since died in the United States.

BYRNE, BISHOP PATRICK



Apostolic Delegate from the Vatican to South Korea, an appointment he received in 1949. But, he had long been connected with Asia, having arrived in Korea in 1922. In 1927, he became the first Prefect-Apostolic to Pyongyang. Ten years later, he was moved to Japan where he was made Prefect-Apostolic to Kyoto. Father Byrne commanded respect from the Japanese. As proof of the high esteem with which he was held in their eyes, Father Byrne was not arrested by the Japanese following the Pearl Harbor attack. The Japanese regarded him as a man devoted only to his work and beyond all suspicion of self-interest ... that, in spite of his nationality. When other American nationals, after a period of internment, were repatriated in exchange for Japanese nationals held by Japan's enemies, Father Byrne was allowed, at his own request, to remain in the Maryknoll house in Kyoto, and was still there when American troops arrived in 1945. Not surprisingly, he voluntarily remained behind to be with his flock following the North Korean attack and the subsequent evacuation of Seoul, South Korea in 1950. A man of great charm and charisma, he became a catalyst in prison who united the very divergent groups of civilian prisoners from various nationalities. He died in prison November 25, 1950, at Hanjang-ni, North Korea.

DANS, LOUIS (DANNY)

First went to Japan after World War II as a Lieutenant in the US Army, and ran rest hotels for the Army Special Services. He later resigned his commission and went to South Korea to become assistant manager of the Foreign Traders' Exchange in Seoul, a position he held until his arrest by the North Koreans. Following the fall of Seoul, Danny had moved about the capitol looking for American officials while trying to get his Army papers activated so he could be placed on active duty. But, the papers were lost and Danny was not able to obtain military credit for his time as a prisoner of the North Koreans. An accomplished entertainer and singer, he shared his talents with his fellow prisoners. Following his release, he returned to the States and lived for many years in California. His last job was as Executive Secretary, Southern California B'nai B'rith Bowling Association. He died in 1996 at Los Angeles,

California.

DYER, NELL



From Conway, Arkansas, she was one of three American lady Methodist missionaries who were held by the Communists. She was captured on June 29, 1950. Before the North Korean invasion, she had been a teacher in Holston (Myung Duk in the Korean language) Girls School in Kaesong. Nell had previously endured brutal conditions during World War II when she was held by the Japanese just outside the infamous Santo Thomas prison in Manila. At this writing, she is in a nursing home in Joplin, Missouri.

ELTRINGHAM, WALTER



A native of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and a coal mining engineer, he had been sent to Korea by the US Economic Cooperation Administration to help in the rehabilitation of the coal mining industry. His fierce eyes and strong personality belied his caring nature. He shared part of his meager food ration with the French nuns until his death. In response to others who pleaded with him to eat all his food and not to starve himself to death, he said matter-of-factly, "I'm not hungry; it would choke me if I ate it." No one believed him. He died in prison at Hanjang-ni, North Korea, on November 17, 1950.

EVANS, WILLIAM H., SR.

Born and raised in Japan, his father was an American medical doctor from Pennsylvania. His mother was Eurasian. Bill had one of the most colorful backgrounds of any of the civilian prisoners. A good story-teller, he kept the other prisoners enthralled for hours with his exploits in Korea before World War II. He was imprisoned under harsh conditions by the Japanese who controlled Korea at that time. He had made and probably lost several fortunes over the years in gold mining, but his determination to continue in his line of work never faltered. He died in prison December 12, 1950, at Hanjang-ni, North Korea.

HALE, GEORGE

An American engineer who worked for the South Korean Government on a barge power plant in the Han River. He was married to a Korean and his brother-in-law betrayed him to the Communists. For some reason, the Communists held him with the American military POWs and not with the civilians. He died in the autumn of 1950 in North Korea.

JENSEN, KRIS

He began life in Denmark near the end of the last century and came to America when he was 17 years of age. He knew no English when he arrived but, through dedication and hard work, he worked his way through college and seminary. He became a Methodist missionary in South Korea in the early 1930s. He was captured on June 29, 1950. In prison, he opened a school for the children of the White Russian and Tatar families. He survived the imprisonment but has since died while again serving as a missionary to Korea.

ROSSER, HELEN

From Macon, Georgia. A Methodist missionary, she had great talent in music and in the nursing field, especially in the area of public health. She was formally arrested by the North Koreans in Kaesong, South Korea on June 29, 1950, as were all the civilians in that city, although it had fallen to the Communists four days earlier. In prison, she tried to lift the spirits of everyone by telling them, "It won't be long now." Following the war, she returned to South Korea for a few years to work with the poor. Helen is best remembered for her "Boy's Town" on Friendship Island in Pusan Harbor, South Korea, which she considered a major accomplishment. She has since died in the United States.

SMITH, BERTHA

From Marshall, Missouri, she was the oldest of the three American Methodist missionary ladies captured by the North Koreans in Kaesong, South Korea on June 29, 1950. Bertha had worked to help develop Korean churches before the Communist invasion. She survived the imprisonment but has since died.

ZELLERS, LARRY



Born in Weatherford, Texas. During his service in the US Army Air Forces in World War II, Larry served as a radio operator on a cargo aircraft operating out of England. His awards are:

- Air Medal
- WW II Victory Medal
- European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four Battle Stars
- Good Conduct Medal
- American Campaign Medal

National Defense Service Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.

During World War II, he decided to enter Christian service. In 1948, he went to Korea as a teaching missionary of the Methodist church and was assigned to Kaesong, South Korea, where he was arrested by the North Koreans on June 29, 1950. Following his release, he completed his education and entered the US Air Force as a Chaplain, a position he held until his retirement in 1975 as a Lieutenant Colonel. He is currently Chaplain for the Tiger Survivors. He has traveled to Japan, Korea, and Okinawa, addressing the military and civilian establishments, and has been invited to conduct a prayer breakfast at the Pentagon. He has authored a book, "In Enemy Hands," copyright 1991, University Press of Kentucky. Although now out of print, the book will be republished in paperback in November 1999. He lives in Weatherford, Texas.

AUSTRALIAN



CROSBIE, FATHER PHILIP



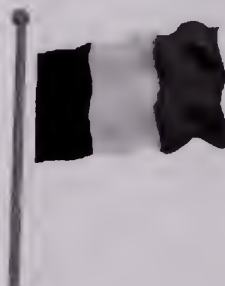
Father Crosbie had first arrived as a Catholic missionary of the St. Columban's Order in Korea in 1940, just before the beginning of World War II. He was evacuated from Korea when World War II began and returned to his home in Australia. Following World War II, he returned to Korea to resume missionary work. He was arrested by the North Korean Communists in Hongchon, South Korea on July 6, 1950, and was eventually taken, like all the other foreigners, to a collection point just outside of Pyongyang, North Korea, in July and August 1950. His strength, determination and hard work were a valuable asset to the other prisoners, many of whom were either too ill or too old to work. Following his release, he returned as a missionary to South Korea where he worked until his retirement several years ago. Unable to endure the cold winters in Korea any longer, he returned to his native Australia in 1997. Father Crosbie authored "March Till They Die" which is now out of print but may still be obtained through bookstores on the Internet. This book is a remarkable historical work and has become a Bible for the Tiger Survivors. All Tiger Survivors are indebted to Father Crosbie.

AUSTRIAN



KISCH, DR. ERNST

Born in 1899; captured in Kaesong, South Korea. An Austrian Jew who grew up in Vienna between the two World Wars, Dr. Kisch was caught up in the holocaust of Nazi Germany and was imprisoned in both Buchenwald and Dachau. All his family perished in the Geneva death camp. However, for a brief time in 1938, Jews were permitted to leave Germany if they had money and were able to find a country to take them. Under this arrangement, Dr. Kisch went to China where he worked in the medical field until the Communist conquest of all of the country in 1949. He then came to the States and worked in hospitals in New York until, in 1950, he was sent by the Methodist Church to Ivy Hospital in Kaesong, South Korea. He died in captivity on June 29, 1951, at Andong, North Korea.

BELGIAN**BASTIN, MOTHER THERESE**

Born in Belgium in 1901. Formerly Irene Bastin, she was only 13 when the Germans invaded Belgium in 1914. For the next four years, she was an active member of "La Dame Blanche," a secret underground group. Several of her friends were executed by the Germans and, in 1918, she was arrested but released due to lack of evidence. She later became a Catholic missionary of the Carmelite Order and went to South Korea in 1938. The health of Mother Therese, which had been poor for many years, declined steadily in prison and rapidly worsened by the end of the Death March. She timed her work of making socks for other people very expertly in order to do the most good before her death, an event that she knew was fast approaching.. She died in prison November 30, 1950, at Hanjang-ni, North Korea.

DEVRIESE, MOTHER MECHTILDE

A Catholic missionary of the Carmelite Order, she was born Godelieve Devriese in Ypres, Belgium in 1888. She survived the Death March, but died November 18, 1950, at Hanjang-ni, North Korea.

BRITISH



BLAKE, GEORGE



Born in Holland of Dutch and Turkish parents. His father distinguished himself in the French Foreign Legion and was wounded several times. He was awarded several high French medals which enabled the family to move to England.

Before Blake's arrest by the North Korean Communists, he was vice-consul of the British Legation in Seoul, South Korea. But, that was only his cover title. His real job was Station Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service in South Korea. It is generally believed that, while in North Korean captivity, Blake secretly changed his allegiance and agreed to work for the Communists, including the Soviet Union. However, some say that he made the decision to join the Communists earlier in his life. Following his release and return to England, he was assigned to a highly sensitive position in MI-6, Britain's CIA equivalent, where he did "irreparable damage" (to quote the judge who would eventually pass sentence on him) to the cause of the Free World. In his MI-6 job, Blake was privy to the code names and locations of "hundreds" of allied agents operating in Soviet Satellite countries.

Blake was finally betrayed by a Polish agent who had defected from the Soviet side. In 1961, he was sentenced to 42 years, the longest sentence ever given a British national for spying in peace time. After serving five and a half years of his sentence, he escaped and then defected to the Soviet Union where he still lives. Blake is the last of the super spies, surviving even the notorious Kim Philby who had also defected to the Soviet Union. In 1990, his book, "No Other Choice," an autobiography, was published by Simon and Schuster.

Other books about George Blake:

"Traitor Betrayed," by E. H. Cookridge

"The Springing of George Blake," by Sean Bourke

In his first public press conference in Moscow in 1992, he said that he betrayed between 400 and 600 allied agents to the Soviet KGB. His actions "halted one of the most successful spying operations in British history" (*Los Angeles Times*, January 16, 1992) and doomed scores of agents to torture and execution. He now lives in retirement in Moscow with a Russian Government pension promised by the old KGB to all who display great loyalty.

COOPER, BISHOP A.C.

A priest and missionary of the Anglican Church, he was in charge of the religious work of his church in all of South Korea. A man of learning and great commitment, he inspired his fellow prisoners to do their best. He survived imprisonment but has since died.

HOLT, CAPTAIN VYVIAN

In internment, Holt was addressed as Captain Holt. However, he was later given the title Sir Vyvian Holt by the British Crown. He had earlier been awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his outstanding World War II service. At the time of the Communist attack, he was the Minister (British terminology) and Head of the British Legation in Seoul, South Korea. He was captured on July 2, 1950 and held throughout the war. Holt was a very quiet and introspective intellectual who never discussed his own life. As a result, his fellow prisoners never learned very much about him. Following his release from prison, his health never returned. He was Ambassador to El Salvador when he died.

HUNT, FATHER CHARLES

An Anglican priest in Seoul, South Korea when he was arrested by the Communists. Never in robust health, he survived the Death March but died in prison November 26, 1950, at Hanjang-ni, North Korea.

LORD, COMMISSIONER HERBERT A.

Head of all Salvation Army work in South Korea. Lord was captured on July 2, 1950. He was the leader and official interpreter of the civilian group of prisoners. He was also the interpreter for the American prisoners of war on the Death March and until the two groups of prisoners, civilian and military, were separated. His vast knowledge of the Korean language and customs, together with his great courage, saved many lives. During World War II, when he was a prisoner in Singapore, Lord distinguished himself by dangerous clandestine activities against the Japanese. Following the war, he was made a Commander of the British Empire by King George VI of Great Britain. Lord survived the Korean imprisonment but has since died in England.

OWEN, NORMAN PHILIP

Born in 1916. Secretary to Captain Vyvian Holt of the British Legation in Seoul, South Korea before the Korean War. He was captured on July 2, 1950. A mild-mannered individual, Owen remained optimistic that the prisoners would eventually be released, albeit not without great losses. He survived the imprisonment but has since died.

FRENCH



BEATRIX, MOTHER



A Catholic missionary, she was 76 years of age when she was captured. Born in France, she had wished since early girlhood to devote her life to God's poor. Before her arrest by the Communists, she had been assigned to the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres Orphanage in Seoul, South Korea. In very frail health, she was shot on the Death March on November 3, 1950 for failure to keep up with the fast pace set by The Tiger.

BULTEAU, FATHER JOSEPH

A Catholic missionary belonging to the Paris Foreign Missions. Born in 1901, he was drafted into the French Army in World War II, captured by the Germans, and released because of illness. A powerful-looking man with a magnificent beard, he was 50 years old at the time of his arrest by the North Korean Communists. He died in prison at Hanjang-ni, North Korea on January 6, 1951.

CADARS, FATHER JOSEPH

A Catholic missionary and member of the Paris Foreign Missionary Society. Born in 1897, he had served in the French Army during World War I and eventually served in Indochina. He died in prison at Hanjang-ni, North Korea on December 18, 1950.

CHANTELOUP, MAURICE

Born in 1915, he was a French journalist, working for the Agence France Presse newspaper, who had been sent to cover the Korean War. He had been captured during the very first days of the fighting in South Korea and had arrived as a North Korean prisoner in July 1950. He survived but has since died.

COYOS, FATHER CELESTINE

The youngest Catholic missionary of the Paris Foreign Missionaries and the only French priest to survive the imprisonment. "One of us," he was to say in the worst days of all, "must live to tell the story." He survived the imprisonment but has since died.

DEMEUSY, SISTER EUGENIE

French by birth, she had served for 18 years prior to her capture as the Mistress of Novices for the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres Orphanage in Seoul, South Korea. A tireless and dedicated worker, she, more than anyone else, kept Father Coyos alive during the winter of 1950-51. Sister Eugenie was awarded the United States Medal of Freedom for "dedication to the welfare of prisoners of war." On January 22, 1955, in ceremonies in Seoul, South Korea, the medal was presented on behalf of President Eisenhower by Lieutenant General Claude B. Ferenbaugh, Deputy Commander, United States Eighth Army.

DESCAYAUX, SISTER MARIE-BERNADETTE

A tireless worker for others in the camp, she was the constant companion of Sister Marie-Madeleine who was blind. She survived but has since died.

GOMBERT, FATHER ANTOINE

A French priest of the Paris Foreign Missions Society, he was 76 years of age at the time of his capture. He and his brother, Julien, were inseparable and carried on their personal conversations in Korean. He died at the conclusion of the Death March on November 12, 1950, in Chunggang-jin, North Korea.

GOMBERT, FATHER JULIEN

A French priest of the Paris Foreign Missions Society, he was 74 at the time of his capture. As had been his expressed wish, he died within 24 hours following the death of his brother, Antoine.

HENRIETTE, MOTHER (Henriette de Lobit)

A member of the Carmelite Order of Nuns, she was the Subprioress under Mother Therese in Seoul, South Korea before the Communist invasion. She was known in prison as Mother Superior following the death of Mother Therese. She survived the imprisonment but has since died.

HOANG, MADAME SIMONE

As a young girl, she had been betrothed by her parents to a Korean scholar many years older than herself, and she had come to Korea from France to marry him. Their son, Man Seng, was approximately ten years old at the time of the Communist invasion. In 1984, Simone was confined to a psychiatric facility in Paris, France. It is unknown if she is alive and unclear if her husband, who was known to have held strong anti-Communist views, survived the Communist invasion of South Korea.

HOANG, MAN SENG

The ten-year-old child of Madame Simone Hoang. It is not known if he is alive.

MADELEINE, SISTER MARIE

Born Henriette Marquier. A member of the Carmelite Order of nuns living in Seoul, South Korea before the war. Though totally blind, she proved herself a gifted French teacher for the children of the Tatar and White Russian families. She survived the imprisonment but has since died.

MARTEL, AMELIA

Age 76 when her imprisonment began, she had been widowed only a year before. Her husband had been a professor in Seoul University at the time of his death. Amelia's German father was Professor Eckart, noted musician and composer. He wrote the national anthem that is used in Japan today. Besides Charles and Marguerite, both of whom shared her imprisonment, Amelia had other children. She survived the imprisonment but died in Portland, Oregon in 1979.

MARTEL, CHARLES EMILE

Born in 1909, he was Chancellor of the French Legation. Charles marched together with his sister and mother on the Death March in the fall of 1950. A strong family, the Martels were proud of a name that had first become famous in 732 A.D. when Charles "The Hammer" Martel, in one of the great decisive battles of history, defeated the Saracens at Tours. Martel's victory halted the expansion into northern Europe of Moslem forces operating from Spain. Charles survived the imprisonment but has since died.

MARTEL, MARGUERITE

Born on July 1, 1912, in Seoul, South Korea, she was a quiet person and, in prison, spent most of her time with her mother, Amelia, and her brother, Charles. An interpreter by profession, she died on December 12, 1995, in Multnomah, Oregon and is buried at Mt. Calvary Cemetery near Portland beside her sister Marie and brother-in-law Richard Deppold.

MEADMORE, JEAN

Born in 1912, he was Vice-consul of the French Legation in Seoul before his arrest by the North Korean Communists in 1950. He survived the imprisonment and continued a very successful career in the French Diplomatic Service until his retirement some years ago. One of his diplomatic assignments was Ambassador to Conakry, Guinea, where he was expelled by Sekou Toure. He now lives in France.

PERRUCHE, GEORGES

Born in 1916, he was Consul General of the French Legation in Seoul, South Korea before the Korean War. Diplomatic immunity did not protect him or any of the other diplomats from abuses by the North Korean Communists. On the Death March, his entreaties to the Tiger on behalf of the prisoners were usually ignored. Following his release from prison, he continued in the French Diplomatic Service, serving in such posts as:

Consul General in Osaka, Japan

Minister Plenipotentiary 96 Saigon (where he was expelled by Thieu)

Ambassador to Ulan Bator, Outer Mongolia

Ambassador to Kabul, Afghanistan (where he was expelled by the Communists when the Russians invaded).

When he retired in 1964, he was awarded the Commander of the Legion of Honor. He died in Paris on July 7, 1984.

VILLEMOT, FATHER

A Catholic missionary and, at 82, the oldest of the civilian prisoners. As chaplain to the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres in Seoul, South Korea before his capture, he had received the care he needed, but his frail body was not equipped to handle his treatment at the hands of the Communists.. After completing the Death March, he died in captivity at Chunggang-jin, North Korea on November 11, 1950.

GERMAN



KO, CHARLOTTE GLIESE

Captured in Seoul, South Korea in July 1950. Born Charlotte Gliese and nicknamed "Lotte." Prior to World War II, she married a Korean businessman and was in Berlin when it was "liberated" by the Red Army in 1945 and all foreigners were forced back to their own country. For the Ko's, it was back to Japanese-controlled Korea. She taught German at Seoul University. When the Reds came to Seoul, South Korea in 1950, Mr. Ko was taken away, never to be heard from again. Following her release from North Korea, she came to the United States and, for many years, operated a successful Oriental curio shop in North Little Rock, Arkansas. She now lives in Joplin, Missouri where she helps care for Nell Dyer, an American and fellow prisoner in North Korea.

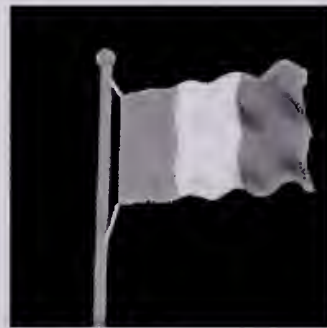
GREEK



GIGANTES, PHILIPPE

Born in 1923. As a writer, Gigantes was known as Philip Deane. At the beginning of the Korean War, he was sent by the London Observer to South Korea as a war correspondent where he was slightly wounded and captured by the North Koreans. In prison, he tried to share his optimism with others in the face of difficult times. Following his release, he moved to Canada where he is now a senator.

IRISH

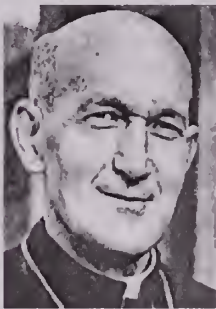


CANAVAN, FATHER FRANK

A missionary of the St. Columban's Order who was known for his interesting stories about life in Ireland. He was captured on July 2, 1950. His health was never robust and he died in captivity on December 6, 1950, in Hanjang-ni, North Korea.

CLARE, SISTER MARY

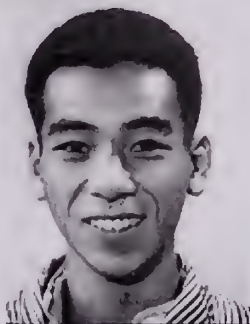
She was Irish by birth but was a nun in the Church of England. She was captured in South Korea on July 2, 1950. Near the end of the Death March, as her strength ebbed away, she required assistance and died November 6, 1950, in Chunggang-jin, North Korea.

QUINLAN, BISHOP THOMAS

A missionary of the St. Columban's Order, he was captured on July 2, 1950. Through great courage, self-sacrifice and determination, he saved the lives of many prisoners. Following his release, he was made Apostolic Delegate from the Holy See in Rome to South Korea, a position he held until his death.

JAPANESE

TSUTSUI, KIYOHITO (MIKE)



The only Japanese National captured during the Korean War. Mike was born February 17, 1930, in Southern Japan. When the Second World War ended, he gained employment at a nearby US Army Base. In March 1950, he headed up the Kitchen Police at Headquarters Battery, 63rd Field Artillery Battalion of the 24th Infantry Division at Camp Hakata, Japan. When that unit was alerted to go to Korea to fight the Communist invasion from the North, Mike was asked by Battery Commander 1st Lt. Herman W. Starling to accompany the unit. He said yes and was given uniforms, a weapon, and ammunition.

The 63rd FAB departed Japan on July 4, 1950, and arrived in Pusan the following day. On July 14, 1950, Mike and others from his unit became prisoners of war. Mike was given a rank and serial number to remember lest the North Koreans find out he was actually a Japanese civilian. If that fact had been discovered, in all likelihood, he would have been shot as a spy. At that time in history, there was no love lost between the Japanese and Korean people. The North Koreans didn't like Mike and mistreated him every chance they got.

Because of the 40-year occupation of Korea by Japan, the language of interpretation for the group of American prisoners of war (Tiger Survivors) was Japanese. Mike was pressed into service as an interpreter and was severely beaten almost daily. He would interpret in such a way as to save the Americans being interrogated from beatings or even death. Mike did all this with complete disregard for his own life and was awarded the Medal of Freedom with Palm, the highest medal the United States could bestow on a foreign national at that time.

On August 17, 1953, Mike was repatriated and sent home to Japan. He had no back pay or benefits and the Japanese Government was investigating him because he left the country illegally.

Some of the officers of the 24th Infantry Division who were prisoners of war with Mike brought him to the United States on a student visa. Life was hard for Mike as he had no formal education in English. After dropping out of college, he went to Maine to live with Shorty Estabrook who was a prisoner of war with him.

Because of his visa status, Mike couldn't enlist in the Army but could and did volunteer under a Selective Service regulation. After his basic and advanced training, he was assigned to Yokohama, Japan where he was awarded the Medal of Freedom for service as a POW during the Korean War. He was then assigned to Arizona while Senator Barry Goldwater sponsored him for citizenship in a private bill before Congress. Mike became an American citizen and stayed in the Army for more than 20 years.

During his 20 years of service to his new country, Mike served in Vietnam, then retired and worked for the Defense Department as a computer analyst, finally retiring altogether while assigned to Camp Zama, Japan. He now lives with his mother in Japan.

During his military service, Mike received 14 awards:

- Medal Of Freedom with Palm
- Bronze Star Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters
- Army Commendation Medal
- Six Good Conduct Medals
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal with four Bronze Campaign Stars
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with "60" Device
- Meritorious Unit Commendation with Oak Leaf Cluster
- Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm



Medal of Freedom

For many years, friends of Mike have attempted to obtain military credit for his time as a prisoner of war. All efforts have failed. The Department of the Army once said that such action would set a precedent for others in the same circumstances. But, that is not possible. Mike Tsutsui was the only one ever so affected.

POLISH/KOREAN



ORCHESTRAIA, HELENA

Capture 07/08/50, She was living in South Korea at the end of World War II and, following the liberation from Japanese control by United States forces, she married an American serviceman. He was later reassigned to the States and was either unable in the time available before the North Korean invasion, or unwilling, to complete the arrangements to have Helena brought to the States. An unusually attractive woman, she was probably in her late twenties or early thirties when she was first brought to the schoolhouse outside of Pyongyang, North Korea, in the summer of 1950. Following complaints of stomach pains, she came to the American room at the schoolhouse to see Dr. Ernst Kisch. After an examination, Dr. Kisch recommended that she talk to a North Korean official about her medical problem. Later, in July or August 1950, she was seen being driven away by some North Korean soldiers, presumably for medical treatment. She never returned, nor was she ever heard from again by any of the prisoners. Unfortunately, before her capture, Helena had worked in South Korea with the US Army as a translator. So, the always-paranoid North Koreans were highly suspicious of her. Among other languages, she spoke English, Korean, and Russian fluently, a talent that would have made her even more suspect in the eyes of her captors. It has to be assumed that she died from unknown causes while under North Korean control.

RUSSIAN



All the Russian prisoners in the Tiger Group were strongly anti-Communist and are better classed as White Russians. As Communism spread across Russia to Siberia, these prisoners had all managed to escape its clutches until the North Korean invasion of South Korea in 1950. They were prisoners of the Communists in every sense of that word and suffered the same hardships as the other prisoners.

FUNDERAT, MADAME

An elderly Russian woman who, in spite of the heroic efforts of others, was shot on the Death March on November 3, 1950, because she was unable to keep up.

KIJKOFF, ILIAN

An elderly Russian man known for his gruff disposition who nevertheless was a person of great integrity. He died on December 17, 1952, in Ujang, North Korea.

KILIN, GEORGI

Son of Ivan and Mary. Released on March 1, 1954. Now lives in the United States. All of the Kilin family were captured in Seoul South Korea.

KILIN, IVAN

A young Russian and father who, with his wife, Maria, and three children, was captured and held in prison. A very hard worker, he survived the imprisonment and was released on March 1, 1954. He later died in the United States.

KILIN, MARIA

The wife of Ivan who defended and protected her three children with great courage, even to the point of challenging an armed guard while in prison. She was released on March 1, 1954, and now lives in Maryland.

KILIN, NICOLAI

Son of Ivan and Mary. Released on March 1, 1954. Now lives in the United States.

KILIN, OLGA

About ten years of age, she was the oldest child of Ivan and Maria. Released on March 1, 1954. Now works in Russia.

LEONOFF

A 70-year-old man known for his very gentle disposition and as one who never complained. He died on December 12, 1950, at Hanjang-ni, North Korea..

MARZLITSKY, ANDREA

Captured by the North Koreans in Seoul, South Korea and brought to the schoolhouse in Pyongyang, North Korea in July 1950, along with five Englishmen and two Americans. A giant of a man, Andrea easily carried ailing Father Charles Hunt, who was also quite large, for bathroom calls. Andrea was a White Russian who had worked for the Americans in South Korea. In July or August 1950, he was taken away by the North Koreans and was never seen by the group again. According to the book, "Last Seen Alive," by Laurence Jolidon, who did research in Russia following the demise of the Soviet Union, Andrew was considered by the Soviets to be an American agent in South Korea and was taken to Moscow and executed.

SMIRNOFF

An ex-Cossack who had been wounded in battle before or during the Russian Revolution. He died on January 6, 1951, at Hanjang-ni, North Korea.

TIHINOFF, IVAN NICOLAI

A small, wiry, elderly man, known as "Father Christmas," he spent most of his time in prison sleeping. Rarely ill and almost totally deaf, he seemed always to be happy and agreeable. He

survived the imprisonment but has since died in the United States.

VOROSOFF, DIMITRI

A middle-aged man of rare ability to make things of wood and metal with his hands. In 1953, he married Maisara Daulatsch, a Tatar internee, in a ceremony performed by a local Communist official. Their son (Alex) was born in prison camp Dimitri survived the imprisonment but has since died in the United States.

VOROSOFF, ALEX

Born in November 1950 in prison to Maisara and Dimitri, the North Koreans did not expect him to live. But, he did survive and now lives with his mother in the United States.

SOUTH KOREAN



The seven South Korean politicians who were held with the Tiger Group had been rounded up by the North Korean Communists following their invasion of the south. One might speculate that the North Koreans took this move as a means of securing hostages for possible future trading value. And, following the Standard Operating Procedure of their Soviet masters, the North Korean Communists never released any prisoners on the basis of good will alone; they had to get something they valued in return. And, apparently that good will was lacking on the part of the North Koreans when it came to their dealings with these South Korean prisoners. As far as any of the Tiger Survivors are aware, the South Korean politicians were never returned to their homeland. From time to time, there have been reports that some have died. It is possible, though just barely, that some may still be alive in North Korea.

CHAIGH, MR.

He had been the secretary of the Landowners Party and a member of the South Korean Parliament before his capture by the North Koreans.

CHANG, MR.

A member of the South Korean Parliament before his capture.

KIM, MR. HYO SUK

He had been Syngman Rhee's Minister of the Interior shortly before the Communist invasion. He had run the South Korean security forces when the guerrilla campaigns were at their height

in the South and, as such, he had much to fear from the North Koreans.

LEE, MR.

A member of the South Korean Parliament before his capture.

MOON, MISTER HAK PONG

He was the unofficial leader of the group of South Koreans and certainly the most colorful. A very strong man, he enjoyed showing off in front of the American soldier prisoners. He was the only one of the seven politicians to have been defeated in the previous election. By sheer weight of his size and personality, he worked his way into a leadership position from which he, at times, exercised considerable authority.

PAK, MISTER BIG

He was given this name in prison to distinguish him from Mr. Pak who was the smaller of the two. Mr. Big Pak was a Japanese-trained professor who spoke good English and was a member of the South Korean Parliament before his capture.

PAK, MISTER SMALL

A farmer and member of the South Korean Parliament before his capture.

PAT & JOHNNY

not much is known about them. Both died as prisoners.

SWISS



MATTI, ALFRED FREDERICK

Captured in July 1950. He was the manager of the Chosen Hotel in Seoul, South Korea at the time of his capture. The hotel was owned by the South Korean Government and was failing. Syngman Rhee asked the Swiss Hotel Association to recommend someone to save the hotel and Matti was their answer. He was in Shanghai when it fell to the Japanese during the Second World War and the Japanese respected his country's neutrality. He was allowed to manage the affairs of the International Red Cross in Shanghai until the war ended. Matti, his wife, and two sons left China for home and their ship went down during a violent storm off the Philippines and one of his sons was lost. He died November 30, 1950 in Hanjang-ni, North Korea.

TATAR**VOROSOFF (DAULATSCH) MAISARA**

Date of capture 07/08/50. A young lady known as "Mary" in prison. June 29, 1950. While in prison, she married Dimitri Vorosoff, a White Russian, who was 59 at the time. They had a son, Alexsei (Alex), who was born in prison in early November 1953. Maisara and Alex now live in California.

DEMIRBELEK, AHMET

Formerly Ahmet Sultan. Brother of Faiza Salahutdin. A young man of great strength who, before the Korean War, had been a boxer in South Korea. He now lives in Turkey.

SALAH (SALAHUTDIN), SAGID

Date of capture 07/08/50. The oldest child of the Salahutdin family. A good student, he studied geometry and physics from Larry Zellers while in prison. Following his release on March 1, 1954, he changed his last name to Salah. He earned a Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics and later worked in The Atomic Energy Commission until his retirement. His biographical record is listed in Marquis Who's Who in Science and Engineering, Third Edition 1996/97, and also in Marquis Who's Who in America 1998, 52nd Edition. He lives with his wife, Ray, in the United States.

SALAHUTDIN, FAIZA

Wife of Salim. She was forced to endure the Death March when her youngest child was less than one year old. Due in large part to her courage and determination, all of her six children survived the imprisonment and were released on March 1, 1954. She lives in the United States.

SALAHUDDIN, FARID

Child of the Salahuddins. He was released on March 1, 1954 and now lives in the United States.

SALAHUDDIN, HAMID

Child of the Salahuddins. He was released on March 1, 1954 and now lives in the United States.

SALAHUDDIN, MURAT

Child of the Salahuddins. He was released on March 1, 1954 and now lives in the United States.

HANMORE, SAGIDA

The only daughter of the Salahuddin family. She studied and became very proficient in languages while in prison. She was released on March 1, 1954 and now lives in the United States.

SALAHUDDIN, SALIM

A young father who, with his wife, Faiza, and their six children, were prisoners of the Communists. He survived the imprisonment, was released on March 1, 1954, and was later killed by a bus in Turkey.

SALAHUDDIN, SHAUCAT

Child of the Salahuddins. He was released on March 1, 1954 and now lives in the United States.

SULTAN, SOPHIA

A very shy young lady, sister of Ahmet Demirbelek, who, though she was not in good health, survived the imprisonment. She has since died.

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